

Top Spartan leaves his mark with Soldiers Page 2A

April is Alcohol
Awareness Month
Page 6A

Stakes on line, not the grill for training Page 3A



Postal Patron
PRSRT STD

PRSRT STD US Postage PAID Permit #43 Hinesville, GA



THE FROM Spaper of the 3rd Infantry Division THE FROM Spaper of the 3rd Infantry Division THE FROM Spaper of the 3rd Infantry Division



Vol. 46, Issue 12

Serving the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities • www.stewart.army.mil

MARCH 31, 2011

Raider 7 named Division CSM

Sgt. Robert Schaffner Jr. 3rd ID Public Affairs



Courtesy Photo down the hall,

Command Sergeant Major getting louder

Edd Watson as the massive

Shock waves ripple across the surface of the cup of coffee sitting precariously on the edge of the shaking desk. The sound of reverberating footsteps echo like thunder down the hall, getting louder as the massive figure emerges.

Blocking out the sunlight, filling the doorway, is an imposing outline of a man six foot, four inches and 280 pounds, kitted out in body armor and grasping an M-4 rifle —the embodiment of a Marne NCO.

This modern-day warrior looks like he's ready to break your neck, but in a surprising twist, throws his massive arms around you and asks, "How's it goin,' High Speed?"

This display of affection for the American Soldier embodies the next division command sergeant major, a man of faith, whose heart is as big as his body.

Command Sergeant Major Edd Watson, the current command sergeant major for 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, is moving down Gulick Ave. to Building 1, where he joins a long line of strong leaders as the division's senior enlisted advisor.

See CSM _

—Page 2A

CAB CSM tabbed as new USACR-Safety Center CSM

Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly A. Green *3rd Combat Aviation Brigade*

It's before dawn and most of the Soldiers on Hunter Army Airfield are either still asleep or just getting out of bed. But, behind a mahogany desk sits a man enclosed by four walls that bear a visual recording



Courtesy Photo
Command Sergeant
Major Richard Stidley

of his journey in the Army. His office is adorned with coins, plaques, photographs and other memorabilia dating back to deployments to Grenada, Panama and Iraq, to name a few. These plaques describe a life committed to the service of his country and to the Soldiers he loves. He arrives everyday at 5 a.m. so he can get a jump on the day prior to his 6:30 a.m. physical training.

Command Sergeant Major Richard Stidley, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, is skimming though his e-mails to form his to-do list and finds yet more congratulatory e-mails from Soldiers, friends, community leaders and some people he says he vaguely remembers – but they obviously remember him.

See FAREWELL ____ Page 10A

Senior commanders bid farewell, welcomed during Retreat ceremony



Master Sgt. Jennifer K. Yancey

Third Infantry Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Ashmen (left) presents a two-star flag to Maj. Gen. Jeffrey E. Phillips during a Retreat Ceremony at Fort Stewart's Marne Garden, March 25. Soldiers, civilians and Family Members bid farewell to Maj. Gen. Phillips, who served 18 months as the division's deputy commanding general. He was promoted to major general during the ceremony.

Master Sgt. Jennifer K. Yancey 3rd ID Public Affairs

Soldiers, civilians, Families and community members gathered to bid farewell to former Deputy Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Jeffrey E. Phillips, while welcoming Col. Thomas S. James Jr., deputy commanding general – maneuver and Col. Christopher P. Hughes, deputy commanding general – support, during a Retreat ceremony at Fort Stewart's Marne Garden, March 25.

Major General Tony Cucolo, 3rd Infantry Division commanding general, said of the Soldiers: "As I've watched you folks arrive over the past two and a half years, I've been amazed at the talent that the 3rd ID attracts."

When it came time to select a deputy commander, Maj. Gen. Cucolo knew the right man for the job. He worked alongside then-Brig. Gen. Phillips at the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, where Maj. Gen. Cucolo said they experienced "a lot of tough, moral courage-testing moments."

After presenting him with the Legion of Merit, Maj. Gen. Cucolo promoted then-Brig. Gen. Phillips to major general. The commanding general considered it a distinct honor to promote his second in com-

"He is a true professional," said Maj. Gen. Cucolo. "He's passionate; he's a Renaissance man who genuinely cares for people." He added, "You took wonderful care of the people and place I love."

Major General Cucolo also promoted him

to brigadier general in 2007. **See RETREAT**Page 13A

Spice drug now illegal at Stewart, across the Army

Deedra Hinton, Lead Prevention Coordinator **Lucinda Johnson-Wallace,** Prevention Coordinator

There's a drug popular with teens, military personnel, and civilians in the U.S. That drug is called Spice. This drug, also known as "K2" is said to give the user a marijuana-like high. It is sold in shops and online as incense, and is being smoked as an alternative to marijuana. The drug appears to have far more dangerous side-effects and consumers have no idea what they're really getting. Spice originally appeared on the scene in the late 1990s, but

didn't really become popular until 2008. As the drug gained popularity in Europe, scientists began conducting research into the composition of this drug and any potential effects on the body. Many countries subsequently banned Spice including Germany, France, Chile, Poland, Russia, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, and the U.K. Spice contains a variety of synthetic cannabinoids, which are chemical compounds devised to produce marijuana-like

See SPICE ______Page

Soldier charged with murders returns to Stewart

Kevin Larson

Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Specialist Neftaly Platero, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, has returned to the Fort Stewart area following the recent closing of his Article 32 hearing in Iraq.

Specialist Platero is charged with the Sept. 23, 2010 premeditated murders of

Spc. John Carrillo, Jr. and Pfc. Gebrah Noonan and the attempted premeditated death of a third soldier while deployed serving in Fallujah, Iraq. Spc. Platero will be held in confinement as he awaits the next phase of his proceeding.

The results of the Article 32 hearing are pending. The hearing closed on Wednesday, March 23 and the investigating officer is now reviewing the infor-

mation from the hearing in order to make a recommendation to the appoint-

ing authority.
Even though Spc. Platero will be confined in the Coastal Georgia region, jurisdiction in the case still resides with units in Iraq.

As with all cases, the charges are allegations and the accused is considered innocent until proven guilty.

Stewart personnel provide support in Long County blazes

Compiled from The Coastal Courier and The Frontline staff reports

Fort Stewart First responders were quickly on hand March 24 to assist the Ludowici/Long County Fire Department in what is now referred to as the Elim Church Road Fire.

The Fort Stewart crews responded initially with over 20 forestry personnel, which included engineering equipment operators, forestry technicians and supervisors to assist with the attack by operating tractor/plow units, pumper trucks, fuel trucks and a service truck.

They assisted in plowing firebreaks and spraying homes and yards with water.

The fire ravaged 4,035 acres and burned 10 structures, three of which were occupied homes.

See FIRE —— Page 13A



Courtesy Photo

Local firefighters and others from Fort Stewart rendered aid during what is now called the Elim Church Road Fire, March 24.



Spartan Commander leaves lasting impact on Soldiers

Spc. Crystal M. O'Neal 2HBCT Public Affairs

It is hot - about 112 degrees in Mosul, Iraq. They are tired, and the coffee pot in the Spartan Tactical Operating Center is empty. Their tan t-shirts are beginning to stick just a little bit, and for some reason, their combat boots seem just a little extra heavy today.

It has been a long day; they rose at 5 a.m. However, the mission is not over, and he is relentless. Out he steps ... the eagle symbolizes his tenure but the determination on his face reflects the drive he and his Soldiers possess – remarkable and unmatched.

They jump to attention, waiting for the next order. "Spartan Soldiers, relax. There is more coffee on the way, and this day is close to an end. Today, because of your constant, diligent watch, you have saved hundreds of Soldiers' lives. We will all rest, we will all eat, we will keep our morale up, but most importantly, we will all go home," he said.

Spartan Commander, Col. Charles E. A. Sexton, will be leaving 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, physically, but hopes to have left behind certain morals and standards for Spartan Soldiers.

"I hope my Soldiers always remember that hard work, loyalty, discipline, and honesty is the key to success," he said. "For my leaders in the brigade:

I challenge you to always remember taking care of Soldiers and their Families, as well as doing what's right, regardless of personal benefit, is what matters above all."

Staff Sergeant Anthony Ezerski, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, said the colonel's tactical and technical proficiency definitely had an impact on himself, as well as other Spartan Soldiers

"Colonel Sexton's attention to detail is profound. I remember us being on a convoy in northern Iraq, and he spotted an unexploded ordinance on the side of the road after our first truck had already missed it," the staff sergeant said. "He's one of those leaders who still knows how to do all the skill level one soldiering, like take apart his weapon, even though his responsibilities are way above that and that speaks to Soldiers."

Lieutenant Colonel Michael D. Jason, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, said not only is the commander an excellent leader and example of a Soldier, his care for Soldiers and their Families is outstanding.

"I worked as his operations officer downrange, and I learned tons from Col. Sexton. He was extremely big on knowing your job as well as possible and taking care of Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Jason. "As hard as we trained and



Occidence

Spartan Commander, Col. Charles E. A. Sexton, awards Soldiers during the brigade's deployment to northern Iraq in support of OIF VII; the Spartan commander will end his tenure as brigade commander April 5.

worked, he was still very Familyoriented; he gave Soldiers as much time as possible to spend with Families, and his model relationship with his spouse, Melody, definitely set an example for Soldiers to look up to." Mrs. Melody Sexton, Col. Sexton's wife, said she and her husband will definitely miss the Spartan Brigade.

"We have gone tons of places with the Army," she said. "But we will always cherish the memories and bonds made here in Second Brigade."

CCNA

CSM_______from Page 1A

Don't let his impressive charisma and stature intimidate you, however. He's on our side, and taking all of this great news with a cool aplomb only earned through years of military experience and leadership.

"I am extremely humbled by the opportunity given to me," Command Sgt. Maj. Watson said. "I am humbled to serve the community of Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield and Kelley Hill, and the local communities"

This will be Command Sgt. Maj. Watson's third assignment with the Marne Division, his first being with 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, from 2004-2006. He rejoined the 3rd ID with the Raider Brigade in 2008 and deployed with the division twice, most recently returning in December from 12 months in Iraq, where he was the right-hand man of then-1st HBCT commander and current Division Chief of Staff, Col. Roger Cloutier.

"I can't think of a better man for the job," Col. Cloutier said. "I can't think of a better Soldier ... the division will benefit because he will be a part of the command team leading our Soldiers."

The current Raider 7 is built like a tank – fitting for a man with such intense drive.

"I would like to be viewed as a catalog of knowledge and as an inspired leader for others to emulate," Command Sgt. Maj. Watson said. "I hope that I am seen as an effective communicator, as a supporter of our DA Civilians, Families, Soldiers and employees of the installation, and as an added strength to the things I encounter."

He said that he looks forward to supporting the commanding general's guidance and directives, and taking care of Soldiers.

"I look forward to what lies ahead for this division," he said. "I look forward to taking care of Families and continuing to improve, in whatever capacity I can, the

quality of life for the Soldiers and Families."

Command Sergeant Major Watson remains steadfast in his beliefs that his main role is to support the Soldiers and Families of the 3rd ID.

"My philosophy as a command sergeant major is, first of all, to support Soldiers, support training and support Families," he said. "Secondly, it is to continue working with the community to better the community that our Soldiers and Families live and serve in."

And his most recent battle buddy knows that Command Sgt. Maj. Watson is the right man for the job.

"He brings a tremendous amount of experience to the position," said Col. Cloutier. "He loves Soldiers, and he's not new to the Marne Division. In fact, when he gets cut he bleeds Marne blue and white."

He is first and foremost a Family man. He and his wife of almost 24 years, Sharon, have three daughters – Chardonnay, 23, and Charvondra, 18, who both attend Valdosta State University, and Charnia, 11.

"(Charnia) reminds me that I am young every day," he said. "Whenever I need a jolt of energy, I just grab a hold of her."

The current Raider 7 credits his Family as the driving force behind his successful career as a noncommissioned officer.

"The person who has made it all possible for me is my wife," he said. "She is the love of my life, the balance for me. She keeps everything in perspective; even when I see things cloudy, she focuses the lens for me daily."

Even as a young boy, he knew he wanted to serve his country after seeing his brother-in-law, an Airman who served in Vietnam, pass through his hometown of Atmore, Ala. – a town with a population of about 7,000 on the Florida border of southwest Alabama – on his way to an NCO course with three other service-

members

"I was amazed and I was impressed (by them)," said Command Sgt. Maj. Watson. "They were clean cut, they were respectful of my grandmother, they talked about their experiences in Vietnam and they talked about how they bettered themselves.

"I said then as a little boy, 'I want to be a part of that, I want to do something for my country.' That drove me and continues to drive me now."

At 17, he visited the National Guard Armory in his hometown, met with an Army recruiter and entered the delayed entry program. In June 1981, he officially became a Soldier.

"I was driven, I knew exactly what I was doing. I said, 'I am going to be a Soldier,' and that is all that mattered," Command Sgt. Maj. Watson said.

After nearly 30 years of service to his country, Command Sgt. Maj. Watson enjoys spending time with his Family and the community, and allows himself to hit the links in his free time.

"During my off time I like to attempt to play golf," he said. "I think it is very relaxing and I think you just meet some great people with deep visions on the golf course."

The newest Marne 7 is cognizant of the fact that he has not made the climb to his now-lofty position on his own

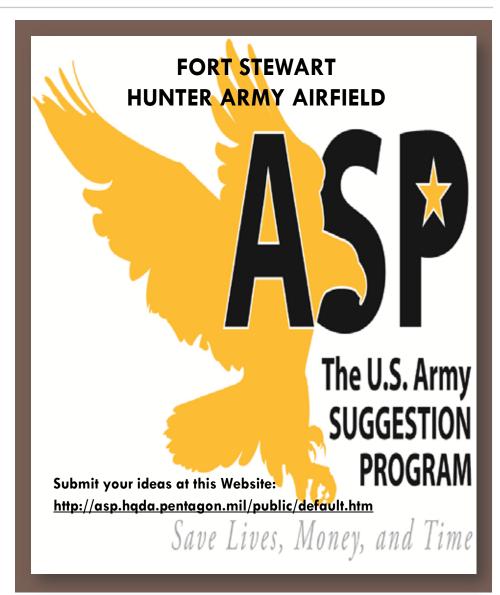
"I attribute my success to the Soldiers that I have worked with and the leaders I have worked for; to the Families that I have supported and the Families that have supported me, because without them I would not be here," he said. "We don't get to these positions by ourselves. As you rise, you pull someone else with you. Other leaders have put genuine time into me and coached, mentored and led me and pulled me along and ensured I was doing the right thing. I hope I am worth their investment."

Caught in the act!



Master Sqt. Jennifer K. Yancey

Soldiers stand in formation during a recent ceremony on Fort Stewart, donning berets. The beret is the proper headgear when attending and/or participating in ceremonies on Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield and Kelly Hill on Fort Benning.



Installation Army Suggestion Coordinator Connie Doolittle, PAIO, 767-6300 Email: Connie.Doolittle@us.army.mil



Photos by Spc. Crystal M. O'Neal

Specialist Lezlie Dudley (standing), D Co., 1-64 AR, watches as Sgt. Xavier Villacis, C Co., 2-3 BTB, hurls a hand-held grenade during Spartan Stakes March 10 at

Spartan Soldiers focus on combat readiness

Spc. Crystal M. O'Neal 2HBCT Public Affairs

"Fit to fight."

These words describe today's model U.S. Army Soldier. Whether it's carrying a battle buddy to safety or lowcrawling for 100 yards, the world's greatest Soldiers are expected to stay combat-ready at all times.

Second Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division "Spartan" Soldiers capitalized on combat-readiness during their annual brigade-wide training/field exercise, Spartan Stakes held Feb. 15 – March 25 on Fort

The training event included, but was not limited to: practice and familiarization on several types of weaponry, physical endurance, combat-lifesaver skills, and mock deployment scenarios.

Sergeant First Class Michael Ospina, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armored Regiment, and non-commissioned officer in charge of the training, said events like Spartan Stakes keeps 2nd HBCT Soldiers on their

"Anytime Soldiers get a chance to actually get handson training with weapons or to freshen up on skills like first aid, it strengthens that individual Soldier as well as the unit," said the Sgt. 1st Class Ospina.

The brigade-wide training, according to Staff Sgt. Nicholas Burken, B Co., 1/64 Armor, also keeps all Spartan Soldiers on one accord.

"This is my second time participating in Spartan Stakes, and I feel exactly as I did the first time ... this training is very necessary," Staff Sgt. Burken said. "It gets all Soldiers across the entire brigade to uphold the same standard. That way, when we have Soldiers from, maybe 3-7 Cav. (3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry,) attached to maybe 2-3 (2-3 Brigade Support Battalion), everyone is on the same page, which makes accomplishing the mission much easier.'

Private First Class Caitrin Underwood, B Co., 2-3 BTB, said participating in the training was extremely beneficial for herself and other fairly new Soldiers.

"Most of the time, our training is very MOS (military occupational specialty) specific, so we rarely focus on basic soldiering skills

except during Sergeant's Time Training on Thursdays," Pfc. Underwood said. "The instructors out here were very good. They took their time to bring us up to speed on things that we haven't really had much hands-on training

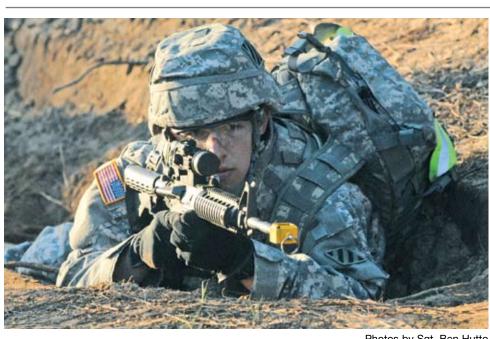
with since basic." Staff Sergeant Burken said the training may have been



Private First Class Caitrin Underwood, B Co., 2-3 BTB, executes proper firing functions of the M-240 B during Spartan Stakes held at Fort Stewart, March 10.

especially helpful to young Soldiers, but it was also useful to older, more experienced Soldiers.

"The training stations out here obviously helped the ew Soldiers, but they served as a refresher course for the older Soldiers as well," he said. "No matter how far you go up in the ranks, I just don't think good training ever gets old."



Photos by Sgt. Ben Hutto

ABOVE: During the BSTB, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division's Buffalo Stakes competition, Spc. Alex DeGroff, a Soldier assigned to A Co., BSTB, pulls security during a skills lane, at Fort Benning, Ga., March 24.



BSTB Soldiers demonstrate their skills during Buffalo Stakes

Sgt. Ben Hutto 3HBCT Public Affairs

FORT BENNING, Ga. - The Soldiers of the Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Divison, tested their basic Soldiering skills in the battalion's Buffalo Stakes competition at Fort Benning, Ga.

The five-day event, which began March 21, had 12 eight-man teams, composed of Soldiers from each of the battalion's companies, competing on five different lanes designed to test Soldiers in a variety of combat scenari-

Buffalo Stakes is the battalion's largest training event since their return from Iraq in October.

On one of the lanes, Soldiers were required to execute a combat patrol, react to an indirect fire attack, treat a casualty, transport the injured Soldier to a safe location across rough terrain, call in a nine-line medical evacuation and throw a smoke grenade to signal the medical helicopter of their location.

"I think it is good training," said Cpl. Tyler Rankin, a competitor assigned to A Company, BSTB. "We have been training pretty hard on our Soldier tasks and drills in the two months leading up to the competition so everyone knew the standards. We were all graded on the same stuff."

Another example of a competitor is Sgt. Luke Lampierto, assigned to A Co., BSTB. He ran for cover in the woods during a react-to-contact drill during the

competition. The event's planners worked hard to make the lanes as challenging as possible, said 2nd Lt. Neal Stainbrook, an engineer assigned to the BSTB's operations cell.

"Our companies came out here and created some very realistic lanes," he said. "We just aren't training to a task number in a manual. These lanes gave Soldiers a glimpse of what they could see on the battlefield."

Staff Sergeant Brian Garvey, a Soldier assigned to Headquarters Troop, BSTB, said the competition tested many of the skills he has not used in years.

"It's tough," he said. "This is the first time I have done NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical) training since basic training. At first, there were quite a few bumps in the road due to unfamiliarity, but it was great training."

Those "bumps in the road" are what the battalion's leaders are looking for, said Stainbrook.

"Each company commander and first sergeant will get a good view on what they have been training on and what skills they need to focus on more," he said. "This event gives leaders a good snapshot on where their Soldiers are in their training."

LEFT: Sergeant Luke Lampierto assigned to A Co., BSTB, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division, runs to cover during a react-to-contact drill during the BSTB's Buffalo Stakes competition at Fort Benning, Ga., March 24. Over a five-day period, 12, eight-man squads competed in five separate skills lanes designed to test their basic soldiering knowledge and teamwork.

Marne Faces

Safety specialist finds balance between work, Family

Jennifer Hartwig

Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs

By day, Kim Hill is a safety specialist at Hunter Army Airfield, ensuring that installation employees work in a safe environment.

But most evenings and weekends, you're likely to find Kim in another role – cheerleader for her children.

The mother of three spends most of her "free time" sitting in the stands at basketball games, watching one of five teams her two sons - Jeremiah, 15, and Isaiah, 13

 play on. She's usually sitting with her 10-yearold daughter, Savannah, while her sons are on the court and her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Tim Hill, a platoon leader at the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Stewart, is on the bench coach-

Kim and Tim met in Germany while they were both in the Army in 1993 and married a year later. Despite very different upbringings – she was raised in metro Atlanta, he is from Perry, Ga., a town with a population of about 10,000 – they've been able to find common ground for the past 17 years.

"I think, in a relationship like ours, you have to learn how to be friends," Kim said. "You have to share some kind of common interests. And I think we've done that, and I think we've found a balance in that ... we come from different backgrounds and we were raised differently, but learning to find the commonality in the two raisings, I think that's made us what we are.

"And I have to truly say he's my best friend. When you live with your best friend it makes for a successful relationship."

In 2002, Kim decided to leave the Army after 12 years as an aviation operations specialist. After 9/11, the Hills saw that the future would bring constant deployments, and they wanted to ensure that one parent would always be home with their children.

After three years as a stay-at-home mom, Kim earned her college degree in professional aeronautics, with a minor in safety. She was accepted into the Army Safety and Occupational Heath internship, which began at Fort Bragg, N.C., and included a five-month course at Fort Rucker, Ala. At the time, Sgt. 1st Class Hill was on his second deployment to Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division, so Kim took the children with her on the road trip.

"We went to Fort Bragg, they went to school for four months there, then we left there and went to Fort Rucker and they were in school for five months there, then we went back to Fort Bragg - they changed schools three times that year," Kim said. "I was the only one in the class (at Fort Rucker) who had my children with me. Kim said students aren't usually allowed to take their

children with them on temporary duty to the course, but an exception was made for her because her husband was deployed deployed.

"I was so thankful for that, because I wanted them with me," she said. "But the workload was intense ... I feel like I was a lot more stressed than the average person in my class."



Kim Hill, a safety specialist at Hunter Army Airfield, sits with daughter, Savannah, 10. while watching son Isaiah's basketball games at Richmond Hill High School, March 10.

> Her husband said he admires the journey she took with their children.

> "I was in awe; I don't think I would have done it. I don't think too many other women would have done it," Sgt. 1st Class Hill said. "I admired it, I thought it was like the best thing she could possibly do. And I love her for it, and she's the reason why we are what we are right now."

> After the two-year internship, Kim accepted a job at Hunter, where she has been since 2008. The Family lives in Richmond Hill, where the boys play on their school and Amateur Athletic Union basketball teams, and Savannah is involved in gymnastics.

> "We stay very busy," Kim said. "I guess our most challenging part of it is running with the kids because their schedule is so busy and so packed. As soon as I leave work, I'm off to the races again."

But through their hectic everyday lives, through the stress of three deployments and all that comes along with it, Kim remains the rock of her Family.

"Well it kind of goes with how the Army says the NCO is the backbone of the Army; well, a good wife is the backbone for any Soldier," said Sgt. 1st Class Hill. "As long as you know that you have a woman who is at home doing all the right things, it makes your life easier. It makes your life as a Soldier a whole lot easier."

And somehow, in between driving the kids to their numerous sporting events, working full time, and run-

ning a household, Kim manages to find the time to help others.

"She's very helpful, she will go out of her way to help any and every body," her husband said. "Perfect example – I coach a 16-year-old AAU basketball team and a couple of my kids have some trouble in school; Kim will come to the gym, take her laptop hook up to Wi-Fi and help them with their reports."

Sergeant First Class Hill also said his wife has helped his WTB Soldiers.

"I've had Soldiers who have had financial problems and I've come home and told Kim I need some help," he said. "She will help set up a finance plan to help them get out of the troubles they're

All the while, Kim's professional life has flourished. According to her supervisor, she has progressed at a rapid rate that belies her less than three years of experience.

"She has progressed very well, in fact, she's probably far ahead of the other people she graduated the intern program with," said Ron Heath, Hunter Army Airfield safety manager. "Her strength is that

she's self motivated – she can generally look at what's coming down the road and know what she needs to do and take on that project."

This is something that makes Heath's life a little easi-

"I don't have to ask or task her every day to do something," he said. "That makes my job that much easier, because it means it frees me up to do supervisory things and project planning and those kinds of things.'

Kim has managed to find balance between her professional life and her life at home, and she is proof that it's possible to have a full-time job and be a full-time

"She is the best mother in the world," said Sgt. 1st Class Hill. "I'm the luckiest man in the world. And I would tell anybody that."

1st HBCT Hosts Women's History Observance

Spc. Jared S. Eastman

1HBCT Public Affairs

Throughout time, women have influenced the course of history. Whether it be slow, like a river changing course through erosion, or fast, like a collapsed dam - women affect the rising and falling of nations, the creation of new technology and build upon old philosophies as well as creating their own. Fort Stewart celebrated Women's History Month with an observance program at Club Stewart, March 23.

"I think one of the things that is most important about these kind of events is that we want to make people aware of the history; in this case of women, and what role they play, their strength of character," said Col. James Crider, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team commander. "Sometimes we don't stop and think about

what they've contributed."

The event included two skits, as well as a medley of prominent female songs from across history played by the 3rd ID Band. Highlighting important women from history, the event, hosted by the 1st HBCT, also shined a spot light on a former 3rd Infantry Division Soldier. Mrs. Donna M. McAleer, who was with the 3rd ID in Germany from 1987-1991, was the keynote speaker.

"I graduated from West Point in 1987, so I was in the 8th class that had women," said McAleer. "[The 3rd ID] was responsible for moving all of the equipment, supplies, and logistics off the continent of Europe to Southwest Asia."

McAleer also spoke about her book, Porcelain on Steel: The Women of West Point's Long Gray Line, that highlights women who have graduated from West Point, and the various experiences they have had since grad-

"They are really the vanguard of a new generation of leaders," said McAleer. "They are part of our history, it's important that we have examples of strong women role models, both in and out of uniform. These women all started in uniform and have gone on to different things."

But the last chapter in history will never be written, there is always someone out there either making a difference or planning on making a difference. For McAleer, thinking about the future of women in the military is just as exciting as accentuating great women of the past. For these women, McAleer was adamant about the attitude needed to be successful.

"Do your best at everything all the time," she said, "And never take no for an answer. If there's a door that's open, walk through it."

Marne Voices Speak Out

March is National Traumatic Brain Injury Month. What is your message of support for a Soldier who has suffered from this kind of injury?

"Encourage our Soldiers to seek professional help and have a lot of patience.'

> **Kimberly Hill** Family Member



'Pass information about your symptom to your Family, and ask it they've noticed changes in behavior."

Derrick Futrell





'Don't be scared. Seeking help as soon as possible will help with the transition of coming back home."

Cpl. Matthew Barnett MEDDAC

"If you keep it inside, your anxiety will increase. Please be open and honest about it. We can help

Jackie Harvey RN Case Manage





3RD INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDER, SENIOR COMMANDER FS/HAAF MAJ. GEN. TONY CUCOLO USAG FS/HAAF COMMANDER COL. KEVIN W. MILTON

HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD COMMANDER LT. COL. JOSE L. AGUILAR

"Don't ignore it if you think something is wrong. The Army has a lot of resources available for you and your Family.

Mary J. Blair Nurse Case Managei

Voice your opinion! Write a letter to

the editor!

Send to:

The Frontline Attn: The Frontline, Editor 112 Vilseck Rd., Suite 109 Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314 or e-mail to:

frontline@stewart.army.mil or fax it to (912) 767-9366

visit www.stewart.army.mil

Frontline

112 Vilseck Rd., Suite 109 **Building 419** Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314

(C)2010

ADVERTISING: (912) 368-0526 THE Frontline OFFICE: 912-767-5669 HUNTER NEWS BUREAU: 912-315-5617

3rd ID PAO — Lt. Col. Jeff Allen
3rd ID NCOIC — Master Sgt. Jennifer Yancey
3rd ID staff writer — Spc. Michael Adams
1st HBCT NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Jennifer Menger
1st HBCT staff writer — Spc. Jared Eastman
1st HBCT staff writer - Pfc. Emily Knitter 2nd HBCT NCOIC - Staff Sgt. Syreetta Watts 2nd HBCT staff writer — Spc. Dustin Gautney 2nd HBCT staff writer — Spc. Crystal O'Neal 3rd HBCT staff writer — Sgt. Ben Hutto 3rd HBCT staff writer — Sgt. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT staff writer — Spc. Erik Anderson
3rd Sust. Bde. NCOIC — Sgt. 1st Class Rhonda Lawson
3rd Sust. Bde. staff writer — Sgt. Gaelen Lowers
3rd Sust. Bde. staff writer — Sgt. Patience Okhuofu
4th IBCT NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Tanya Thomas
4th IBCT staff writer - Sgt. Robert Schaffner
3rd CAR NCOIC — Sgt. 1st Class Kim Green 3rd CAB NCOIC — Sgt. 1st Class Kim Green 3rd CAB staff writer — Sgt. Monica Smith

Acting Garrison PAO — Dina McKain Command Information Officer — Jim Deputy CIO — Kaytrina Curtis Jim Jeffcoat

Editorial/Design Staff Managing Editor — Jennifer Scales Public Affairs Specialist - Renee Reese Public Affairs Specialist - Elvia Kelly Production Manager — Sherron Walker Graphics — Mark Geary Advertising Manager — Cynthia Barnes

Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs Hunter Army Airfield PAO — Steven Hart Assistant PAO — Nancy Gould Public Affairs Specialist - Jennifer Hartwig

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Frontline are not necessarily the official views of, or are endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or U.S. Forces Command. It is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office, Fort Stewart, Georgia. 31314-5000. All editorial content of the Frontline newspaper is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Stewart, Georgia and the 3rd Infantry Division, and is printed by Morris Newspaper Corporation of Hinesville, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Stewart, Georgia. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. Subscription rates are \$12/3 months, \$20/six months and \$36 for 12 months. Rates are Third Class mail inside the continental U.S.

FROM THE FROME.

Rocky's Report on world events

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dale Hatfield

All source Intelligence Technician 3rd ID G-2 Analysis and Control Element Fusion

In Iraq, small scale protests continue to occur; however, they have yet to intensify to levels demonstrated elsewhere in the Middle East or North Africa. In general, the protests are calling for better services for the populace and decreased levels of corruption at the local and provincial level.

While not calling for regime change, the mostly peaceful demonstrations have prompted the resignation of three southern Iraq provincial governors. In an effort to improve conditions, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki issued a directive for provincial level leaders to improve services over the next 100 days or face dismissal.

Separately within Iraq, negotiations between the Government of Iraq and the Kurdish Regional Government have shown progress; however the Kurdish Security Forces have yet to completely return to their former locations. With the elevated Kurd and Arab political tensions, Arabs may perceive the Kurdish forces lack of movement as a potential

attempt to claim the long disputed Kirkuk City. There have been no clashes between the Kurds and Arabs since the repositioning of forces.

In Afghanistan, International Security Assistance Force Headquarters recently reported that Afghan and ISAF forces are removing more insurgent weapons from the battlefield than ever before. Though generally expected, due to the increased number of troops committed to Operation Enduring Freedom, the roughly 2,700 caches found and cleared between January 2010 and January 2011 remain significant, as more than half of the cache finds occurred within the past four months.

While not crippling to the insurgents, continued cache finds such as the one in early March in Kandahar, which consisted of a car bomb, 17 heavy machine guns, and numerous mortar rounds and ammunition, may have an impact on the insurgent ability to conduct sustained attacks as they attempt to kick off the annual Spring Offensive.

Across the Middle East and North Africa, varied degrees of civil unrest remain in numerous countries, with the highest levels of unrest occurring in Libya and Yemen. In Libya, the United Nations approval

of a No-Fly Zone on March 17, prompted Coalition Forces to target Libyan military command and control nodes and anti-aircraft sites via airstrikes to disrupt the pro-regime military capability to continue offensive actions. Although the Coalition strikes resulted in the Libyan military calling for an immediate cease-fire, reporting has since shown that armed clashes continue to occur, as pro-Qadhafi forces attempt to defeat opposition elements.

In Yemen, President Ali Abdullah Salih's failure to fully meet the demands of both students and opposition political parties, residing under the umbrella of the Joint Meeting Parties, has resulted in continued demonstrations in the capital and several other cities. Although President Salih has made numerous concessions since the protests began, his refusal to resign is viewed as unacceptable, with protests expected to intensify in the near term as support for him, both politically and militarily, continues to wane.

These situations, while extremely volatile, represent only a fraction of the populace across the Middle East and North Africa that remains disenfranchised and emboldened to demand changes.

'Outlaw Soldiers' continue readiness, countdown to homecoming



4th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—Soldiers with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), qualified on their individual weapons March 10-11 on COB Adder.

Though the Soldiers of the 632nd Maint. Co. are approaching their redeployment soon, they continue to press forward with their daily mission, and that includes their routine training to include weapons qualification.

"Outlaw" Soldiers conducted range operations and qualified on every weapon system in their arsenal, and each firer qualified on his/her weapon.

"I'm looking around at everyone out

on the range today, and most Soldiers are wearing a smile," said Staff Sgt. Sheena Sanders, a platoon sergeant with the company and a Los Angeles native. "It's a great day to be in the Army."

Staff Sergeant Sanders said the competitive nature of the training helped motivate the Soldiers, and it outlined to them the importance in attending the range.

"The 632nd Maintenance Company range was very successful to me," said Staff Sgt. Michael Blocker, a construction equipment repairer supervisor with the company and an Irma, Wis., native. "The Soldiers who participated in qualification were definitely set up for success. The safety personnel on the range did a great job coaching the Soldiers and ensuring all range operations were adhered to."



Alcohol Awareness Month is not a time of celebration

Deedra Hinton

Lead Prevention Coordinator

April is Alcohol Awareness Month, an annual public awareness campaign that encourages local communities to focus on alcoholism and alcohol-related issues.

Heavy alcohol consumption and underage drinking is a problem in the military.

A recent University of Minnesota study found that the level of underage binge drinking in the military is "dangerous to both the drinker and those around them."

Mandy Stahre, the epidemiologist who led the study, said the results were disturbing, "given the equipment and dangerous environments commonly encountered by active-duty military personnel."

Stahre said 43 percent of the 16,000 Soldiers surveyed reported binge drinking in the past month. The group defined binge drinking as four or more drinks in one session for men and three or more drinks for women.

Alcohol is linked to 5,000 deaths per year for underage drinkers. Alcohol can be a problem for underage drinkers in the military. These individuals use alcohol to cope with stress, boredom, loneliness, and lack of recreational activities. This is especially true during pre- and post deployments.

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield has seen a steady increase in alcohol-related incidents from September 2010 with a low of eight incidents, to February 2011 which had 58 incidents.

In the United States, a standard drink is one that contains 0.6 ounces (13.7 grams or 1.2 teaspoons) of pure alcohol.

Servicemember's tolerance levels are higher than the norm. They tend to consume more and not realize that they are drunk.

Alcohol affects your physical coordination (ability to walk/talk), your brain (slows reaction times), your gastrointestinal tract, your reproductive system, your immune system, and is linked to cancer.

It is found that a blood alcohol concentration level

of 0.35-0.50 is the level in which death occurs.

No two people will respond to alcohol the same way.

The only way to get sober after drinking is TIME. It takes your liver up to two hours to get rid of a standard drink.

Taking a shower, drinking coffee and going to bed will not necessarily make you sober.

For more information on alcohol awareness, or if you or someone you know needs help, call 912-767-5265/767-5267



Alcohol Awareness Month activities

National Alcohol Screening Day April 7, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Soldier Service Center Building 253 and Post Exchange at Fort Stewart Commissary and Post Exchange at Hunter Army Airfield.

April 12, Fort Stewart Information Booths, building 253

April 18, Hunter Army Airfield Information Booths, PX and Commissary

Fort Stewart Georgia State Patrol April 19, 9-10 a.m.; 1-2 p.m. at Moon Theater

This class will be presented by Trooper Andy Sinquefield, from Georgia State Patrol, and will educate attendees about underage drinking and driving under the Influence.

Hunter Army Airfield Georgia State Patrol

April 25, 9-10 a.m.; 1-2 p.m. at Hunter Theater

This class will be presented by Trooper Andy Sinquefield, from Georgia State Patrol. This class will educate attendees about underage drinking and driving under the Influence.

Save a Life Tour April 25 and 26 at Fort Stewart Caro Gym April 27 at Hunter Army Airfield Tominac Fitness Center

The National Save A Life Tour takes a new approach to drinking and driving awareness. Gone are the days when a tall cop with a shiny badge tries to scare people into listening. The Save a Life Tour brings a shocking approach to alcohol awareness with tragic video, personal stories of the loss of loved ones by peers, and a sobering drinking and driving simulation experience. This tour has earned itself national acclaim from colleges, universities, high schools, and military events nationwide.



How to protect your teenager from sexual assault

ACS Sexual Assault Training

According to the Department of Justice, 67 percent of all victims of sexual assault were juveniles (with more than half under the age of 12).

While most were assaulted by an adult (77 percent), 23 percent were juvenile offenders.

It is also worth mentioning that 70 percent of victims know their offender and most juvenile assaults typically occur in a residence after school.

How can you educate your teenager about the warning signs in their relationships? What can you say and do as a parent?

• Build a trusting relationship with your child and never penalize them for telling the truth regarding sex, drugs, or anything else.

- Remain calm and let your teenager talk. React later in private to another adult
- Be honest and express your values and expectations, concisely.
- Express that any sexual involvement should always be by mutual consent and anything else constitutes assault.
- Encourage your teenager (male or female) that he or she can say no to sex in spite of peer pressure.
- Tell your teen how important it is that their body language mirrors their verbal requests.
- If your teen feels pressured, afraid, or unsure about sex, provide him or her with resources or someone safe he or she can talk to (even if it's not you the parent). One such resource is the Web site www.loveis-

respect.org, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, where there is a 24/7 hotline and live chat available just for teenagers

• Make sure that your child has a responsible adult present or easily accessible (i.e. a neighbor) when you are not able to be home after school.

As you observe your teenager in relationships, look for these warning signs that the relationship is sexual and that your teenager may be victimized or coerced.

- Jealous or possessive behaviors by a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- The boyfriend or girlfriend is critical, insulting (puts down your teenager).
- Excessive texts/instant messages or obscene phone calls.
- The boyfriend or girlfriend threatens to hurt themselves if your teenager breaks

up or leaves them.

- Your teenager begins to isolate him/herself from friends and/or Family.
- The boyfriend or girlfriend begins to pressure your teenager for physical contact or touching inappropriate places (private body parts) in lieu of sex because your teenager has said "no."
- Bra/towel snapping or wedgies or pulling on clothing.

For additional parenting tips, please contact the Stewart and Hunter ACS Family Advocacy Program by calling (Stewart) 912-767-5058 or (Hunter) 912-315-6816.

Also, the month of April is Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Awareness Month. Call for information about the various events planned throughout the month.

512th personal security detachment trains with MEDEVAC

103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The personnel security detachment with the 512th Quartermaster Company, 352nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), out of Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., teamed up with the medical evacuation section on Joint Base Balad, Iraq, to train on the latest MEDEVAC procedures.

The Soldiers practiced loading casualties on and off the helicopters, and they spoke with the pilots and medics on the best ways to prepare for real-world MEDEVAC scenarios.

Even though the platoon is finishing up their deployment, they still feel it's vitally important to stay fresh on MEDEVAC training, because this training could really make a difference, especially with critical patients.

"The more you train, the better off you'll be if you have to react quickly to save someone's life," said Sgt. Greg Jerkins, a truck commander for the 512th Qm. Co.'s PSD, and a Cheyenne, Wy., native.

Prior to the training event, the platoon worked on their internal battle drills for handling casualties, and refreshed their capabilities using the battle drill scenarios that could save another Soldier's life.

The group then headed over to work with the MEDEVAC personnel who cover much of the area that the 512th Qm. Co. operates within.

The platoon worked on placing casualties into the helicopter without the rotors running in order to master the difficulties of maneuvering a litter into a narrow doorway.

Afterwards, the crew turned the helicopters rotors on, and they had the chance to see how much more difficult it is to place a casualty in the helicopter with the new distractors.

The added danger of the blades spinning a few feet above their heads and the inability to effectively communicate with the noise from the engine made the task increasingly more difficult, said Spc. Dustin Allen, a gunner with the PSD team and a Mount Carmel, Ill., native.

"With the blades spinning and the engine running, you got a sense of what it would be like if we had to do this for real," he said.

Specialist Michael Williams, a driver and gunner for the 512th QM Co., and a West Memphis, Ark., native, added that he now knows what to do to make it easier for the MEDEVAC Soldiers to extract personnel to get them medical help.

"It prepared us so the medics can do their job quickly and efficiently, and not have to wait for us to be ready," said Spc. Williams. "The training showed us all the dangers being around a running helicopter and how we can avoid further injury."

The training is something that every unit should participate in; it is a vital tool for anyone heading outside of the wire, added Allen.

Sergeant Jerkins said that working with the latest MEDEVAC helicopter that the Army uses showed all the Soldiers the full capabilities that the Army has.

"Working with the new aircraft also made us rethink our own SOP on handling casualties," he said.

The team learned a lot from the training event and will continue to implement changes to improve their processes based on the suggestions of the MEDEVAC team, making them more efficient and better able to assist their casualties.

Those small changes could mean the difference between life and death.





0----

The aid and litter team led by Sgt. James Cassidy, a Savannah, Ga., native, and Spc. Thomas Bradfield, a Winnebago, Ill., native, are both from 512th QM Co., 352nd CSSB, 3rd Sust. Bde, 103rd Sust. Cmd. (Expeditionary), takes a 'casualty' to the medical evacuation helicopter during a training event March 24 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Good deed turns officer into reluctant hero

Pfc. Emily Knitter 1HBCT Public Affairs

Two lieutenants walk into Popeyes.

It sounds like the beginning of a bad joke, but this time, it was the start of a lucky break for one Soldier.

The restaurant, which has a raised platform along one wall with extra seating that is surrounded by large potted plants, was about half full when they walked in and ordered their food to go.

"I set my food down and pulled out my beret to put my hat on and this Soldier was standing on top of the stairs foaming at the mouth like he had rabies or something," began 1st Lt. Craig Blair, the fire direction officer for 1st Platoon, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team. "The lieutenant who was with me asked 'Are you alright?' and the kid grabbed his throat."

The Soldier was standing on the top of the stairs,

behind one of the potted plants, so 1st Lt. Blair and his friend were the only two in the restaurant who could see him.

"I grabbed his collar and pulled him off the stairs and gave him the Heimlich maneuver," said 1st Lt. Blair, a native of Jonesboro, Tenn. "Every time I would go to force it out he would tense his chest up and I said 'you're going to have to relax so I can do this or it's not going to work'."

After a few more thrusts, the piece of food dislodged from his throat.

Another swig of soda and the Soldier was okay again.

"So then I went on about my lunch," 1st Lt. Blair said with a shrug. "He was choking and you've got to get it out. When I left Popeyes, it wasn't that big of a deal to me, I just kept going on with my day."

Before joining the military, 1st Lt. Blair had been attending college for nursing, where he learned how to do the Heimlich maneuver, but that was the first help.

time he had ever used the skill.

"In your training you do the exercise in steps," said 1st Lt. Blair. "Whereas in real life your heart beats a little faster. You don't have time to think, you just have to do it."

While 1st Lt. Blair will admit his actions might have saved the Soldiers life, he didn't do it for the atten-

"There's no reason to blow it up," he said. "It just

all worked out for the best I guess." Then he laughs and shakes his head.

"When we got back to the battery, 1st Lt. Jeffrey Caslen ran into the office and went 'Hey, we have a hero! First Lieutenant Blair did the Heimlich on a Soldier and got a chicken bone out of his throat!'"

So now 1st Lt. Blair is a reluctant hero, receiving recognition from his battalion commander all the way up to the 3rd Infantry Division commander.

But at the end of the day, he is just glad he could help.

3rd Brigade forward observers use simulators to hone skills



Sgt. Ben Hutto

Sergeant Michael Sumner (left) and 2nd Lt. Jonathon Angello, both assigned to 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, plot target information during call for fire training at the Military Center of Excellence Simulation Center on Fort Benning, March 24. More than 100 of the 3rd HBCT's forward observers and joint fires observers recertified and tested their call for fire and close air support skills at the center, March 23-25.

Sgt. Ben Hutto3HBCT Public Affairs

FORT BENNING, Ga. – More than 100 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division forward observers and joint fires observers recertified and tested their call for fire skills and close air support skills at the Military Center of Excellence Simulation Center at Fort Benning, March 23-25.

The brigade, which returned from their most recent deployment in October, is currently in their reset phase and was using the center to help hone their skills.

Since the start of the war in Iraq forward observers have done so many things other than their primary job when they have deployed, said Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Reedze, the Fire Support Operations noncommissioned officer for the 3rd HBCT. He said that calling for fire and the skills required to be an effective forward observer are very perishable, and added that the training was important in making sure they are where they need to be.

Many of the 3rd HBCT Soldiers were impressed with the facility they were training in.

"It has very high-speed equipment," said Staff Sgt. Derek Bachman, a Soldier assigned to the 3rd Squadron,

1st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd HBCT. "The facility is brand new. The training plan was very well thought out and put together. To be honest, this is the best call for fire

trainer I've ever been in."
Staff Sergeant Bachman said that many of the scenarios he practiced in the simulators were difficult,

but he appreciated the chance to test his skills.

"It is challenging going from a deployed environment setting to going back to what we are trained to do," he

said. "This is exactly what we need to be doing."
Sergeant First Class Reedze and Staff Sgt. Bachman said that the simulators allow Soldiers to see realistic targets on a full size screen and make real-world calculations, like they would in an actual call for fire

While the current combat environment hasn't allowed the 3rd HBCT's forward observers to do their traditional job, Sgt. 1st Class Reedze stressed that the Army will continue to train their forward observers for any scenario.

"We are not an Army that fights only one kind of battle," he said. "We always need to be ready to fight high-intensity linear battles as well as urban combat. If we lose those skills focusing on one type of fight, we will not be effective when the time comes."





Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

ALL SOLDIERS AND DA CIVILIANS ASSIGNED TO OR WORKING FOR USAG Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield WILL ATTEND ONE OF THE SIX EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BRIEFINGS. Emergency Preparedness Day 8-9 a.m.; 10-11 a.m.; 1-2 p.m.

Fort Stewart Main Post Chapel building 500

– May 17———

9-10 a.m.; 1-2 p.m.; 3-4 p.m. Hunter Army Airfield, Post Theater building 1282

Project officer is Mr. Tony Fleeger, DPTMS, P&O DIV, 912-767-2583 or e-mail William.Fleeger@us.army.mil.

Close of tax season approaches

The Marne Tax Centers at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield are open now through April 18. The center is open to active-duty Soldiers, Family Members, and retirees. The tax centers provide free tax preparation services for both federal and state returns.

The tax preparers are IRS trained and certified. Taxpayers should bring ALL required documentation to the tax center, such as W2s, 1099s, 1098s, etc. Also bring military ID, a copy of their social security card or a memo from the Social Security Administration for the taxpayer, their spouse, and any dependents. Space is limited so returns can be prepared while you wait or as a drop-off; in each case, you will need to bring all documents and be in-processed by our

Drop-off returns may take 3-4 business days to process and you need to return to the tax center to sign your return before it can be filed.

Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Staffing may be limited during the lunch period from 11:45 to 12:30. There are two loca-

Fort Stewart: Bldg. 709 (next to Popeyes) and Hunter Army Airfield, Bldg. 1211 (Legal Assistance Bldg.). For more information, stop by the tax center or call 912- 767-1040 (Stewart) or 912-315-3675 (HAAF).

Get ready for insurance open season

Beginning April 4 through June 24, the civilian workforce will have open season for Federal Long Term Care Insurance. In October 2009, the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program introduced a new plan, FLTCIP 2.0, with enhanced features for current FLTCIP enrollees. Now that all current enrollees are "settled," it's time to move forward second phase of the FLTCIP 2.0 rollout.

During the open season, actively at work employees and their spouses (including same sex domestic partners of the civilian workforce members) who are not currently enrolled, will be able to apply to the FLTCIP with abbreviated underwriting. Nonenrolled annuitants and other qualified relatives can apply for coverage with a full underwriting application during this period, as well as anytime during

For frequently asked questions on the Open Season, please visit www.ltcfeds.com/help/faq/faq. *html*. This site will be updated on a regular basis.

90-day trial for new CDC hours

Effective immediately, all child development centers, Pre-K centers, SAS, and SAYS on Fort Stewart and Hunter will begin opening at 5:30 a.m., Monday thru Friday on a trial period for 90 days.

Whether or not this becomes a permanent change will be determined on the amount of usage at this time in the morning. (Hourly care & Pre-K care will continue to begin at their previously advertised

For more information, call 912-767-1342.

Japan relief solicitations needed

The Office of Personnel Management Office of Combined Federal Campaign is authorizing a special opportunity to help those in need in Japan. Federal employees at the workplace can help to facilitate relief and reconstruction assistance in Japan through this special solicitation. A one-time cash or check donation outside the normal Combined Federal Campaign procedures will be allowed. If anyone would like to contribute, The United States Agency for International Development has provided a list of relief organizations and related information on its Web site at www.usaid.gov. All special solicitation activities must conclude by July 31, 2011.

3rd ID Reunion scheduled

The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division and attached units in wars and in peacetime will hold their 92nd annual reunion Sept. 8-11. The reunion will be held at the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel, French Quarter, 739 Canal Street at Bourbon, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. The toll free number is 888-696-

4806. Room rates are \$99 per night plus tax. The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division is seeking

those who served in the 3rd and its attached units during wars, peacetime or special interest to join the Society. Contact Henry Burke 1-803-782-7517. E-mail pennieburke@sc.rr.com.

For additional reunion information, contact Trish Blanton or e-mail *info@thereunionbrat.com*.

Childcare spaces available

Childcare service is available on Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. Hunter spaces are limited until the new Child Development Center opens in the next few months, accommodating an additional 144 (ages 0-5). Hunter Families who wish to be placed on a waiting list, should call 912-315-5425. For more information, call your respective CDC.

Lost an item? Found an item?

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield have a lost and found program. If you want to report or check on a lost item, visit building 280, 354 East Bultman Avenue on Fort Stewart and check with Detective Hooks, 912-767-9596/9026.

The Hunter Army Airfield point of contact is Detective Battista, at building 1240, 197 South Lightning Road at 912-315-5374/2940.

Get your message out quickly

Use the Marne Message system to get information out to the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield community of employees. From your computer, send your message to stewmsgrequest@conus.army.mil. Your information should populate the system within hours, if not sooner. Attachments cannot be included in MARNE Messages. Only command directed messages are included in MARNE mes-

STEWART-

Rita Ackerman scholarship available

Applications are being taken for the Rita Ackerman Scholarship.

This scholarship was created specifically to be awarded to the spouse of any enlisted servicemember, either active duty or retired. It is awarded in memory of Rita Ackerman, who was an active spouse in the Fort Stewart community. She was one of the driving forces of the Spouses' Club as well as a volunteer in other organizations such as the Thrift Shop, ACS, Red Cross and other worthy causes.

It was Rita's dream that everyone be able to obtain the education they needed to be able to take care of themselves and their Families. As well as to enjoy a quality of life that allowed them to travel and immerse themselves in the culture of the area they chose to visit or live in.

Applications are available at the Fort Stewart Library, the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center, and at Savannah Tech.

They must be post marked by Friday to be eligible for consideration.

For more information, contact Maggie Roberts at 912-369-6478.

Memorial dedication scheduled

The 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team requests the onor of your presence at the dedication of The Raider Brigade Fallen Soldiers Memorial. The ceremony will be held 1 p.m., Friday at 1st Brigade Headquarters, building 613 on Fort Stewart. Please RSVP by March 25 to 2nd Lt. Alicia Scott at 912-767-6386 or alicia.scott2@conus.army.mil.

The uniform for this event will be duty uniform with beret for military and business attire for civilian guests.

Road closure through April

Through 5 p.m., April 15, 15th Street between McFarland Avenue and Tank Trail 40 will be closed to all traffic.

Subject closure is necessary for the widening of 15th Street. Detour signs will be displayed and posted for the duration of the project.

The point of contact regarding additional information is Joyce Oglesby, Corps of Engineers, 912-

Celebrate Lent

Weekly Lenten services will be held every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at Heritage Chapel. The services will continue through Holy Week concluding with a Tenebrae service (service of shadows) on Good Friday. Soup and sandwiches are provided after the Wednesday services. For more information contact Chap. (Maj.) George Wallace at 912-767-

Winn DFAC opens later for public

The Winn Army Community Dining Facility is open to only Winn staff (with Winn ID badge) and Families of current inpatients from 11 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday.

All non-badge holders are welcome to enjoy our dining facility after noon.

COMET offers Soldier training

Need Soldier Training? The Fort Stewart Command Maintenance Evaluation and Training Team subject matter experts are ready to assist units seeking to evaluate and train Soldiers within supply and ground maintenance arenas. We offer formal training classes on maintenance, records management, supply/ property accountability, drivers/licensing program, publications and much more.

The COMET team is always willing to assist units in evaluating their maintenance and supply program through formal and informal evaluations ensuring

a unit is within the Fort Stewart and Army Standard.

Do you have questions on the Command and Supply Discipline Program? Call the supply team and receive up-to-date and accurate tips on making your unit's program work. Do you need a refresher course on running readiness reports at your maintenance facility? Request a staff assisted visit and receive one-on-one training with a technical

We are located in building 623, suite 144 just off of William H. Wilson Avenue. Contact the COMET Program Manager at 912-767-1018 for questions regarding the COMET program or to request assistance, and remember; "The answer is yes! Now, how can we help you?"

Pasta Night continues at Thunder Run

Have you heard? Thunder Run offers Pasta Night every Wednesday at Club Stewart from 5-9 p.m. This is an All-You-Can-Eat special for just \$9.95, children eat for half price! For more information, call 912-368-2212.

HUNTER

Active duty, Families get free tickets

The 30th Annual Southern Home Show will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, in the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center. All active duty military and Family Members are being admitted FREE with military ID, compliments of the organizers. A group of tickets are available for pickup at Stewart's Leisure Travel Services, Bldg. 419 and Hunter's Leisure Travel Service, Bldg. 1286 for your convenience. Additional tickets FREE for active duty military and Family Members with military ID will be available at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center entrance to the show. For more information, call 912-767-2841 (Stewart), 912-315-3674 (Hunter) or visit www.homebuildersofsavannah.com/parade.asp.

Lotts Island undergoes upgrades

The Lotts Island Recreation/Picnic Area will be closed to accommodate the rest room/picnic pavilion upgrade construction. Traffic lanes to the island will be limited.

Should a question arise, please contact Department of Public Works Inspections Branch, Howie Harris at 912-228-7123.

Hunter official photo service available

Effective now, the Department of the Army Photo and Command Photo support is open by appointment only at building 1209 at Hunter Army Airfield.

The service is open 9-11 a.m., and 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m., every Wednesday.

Please go to www.vios.army.mil to schedule your DA/command photo at the Hunter studio. Appointment slots at Hunter are limited. You are welcome to make your appointment for the Fort Stewart Studio. For more information, call 912-767-2656/4905.

LEGAL NOTICE

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Edward L.** Hoglund III, B Co., 3/69 Armor, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314, please contact 1st Lt. Michael Murphy at 912-576-9037.

nyone having claims against, or who is Hindebted to the estate of Pfc. Lonnie Cooke, Ft. Stewart Replacement Det, 3rd Sustainment Bde, Ft. Stewart, Ga., 31314, please contact 1st Lt. Leonardo Cleversley at 912-856-6055.

We're here to help!

If you or someone you know is experiencing a lifethreatening emergency or is attempting to commit suicide, the first response is to call 911. For other urgent mental health concerns, specialists are available:

During Normal Duty Hours (Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4

Fort Stewart Behavioral Health Clinic (1083 Worcester Avenue, building 9242): 912-767-1654

Fort Stewart Family Life Chaplains: 912-767-1814/5409

Mental Health Community/Military and Family Life Consultants: (1083 Worcester Avenue, building 9242): 912-767-1647

Family Support Issues/Family Readiness Center, (191 Lindquist Road, building 87), 912-767-5058

Hunter Army Airfield Tuttle Army Health Clinic (230 Duncan Drive, building 1440): 912-315-4240/6125

During Non-Duty hours:

Winn Army Community Emergency Room, (1061 Harmon Ave): 911

On Call Chaplain: Contact the Division Operations Center (24/7) (912) 435-9732/9733 to request chaplain assistance for yourself

for someone you believe is depressed and in danger of harming themselves.

Suicide Prevention Hotline 800-273-TALK (8255) www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org Army OneSource Help Line 800-342-9647

Education Matters

Register for GED classes

Adult Literacy and GED preparation courses are offered by the Liberty County Adult Education Program at Fort Stewart in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center. The free classes are held in either morning, afternoon or evening sessions and will prepare you to take the GED or refresh your skills in basic education subjects. The next registration opportunities are April 4-5 or April 18-19 in room 228. You must be present both consecutive days from 1 to 5 p.m. to complete the enrollment process. Certain items are necessary to register. Call call 912-368-7322 for complete details.

Green-to-Gold briefings held monthly

The Green-to-Gold scholarship sessions are held at the installation education centers every month at 2 p.m. Upcoming briefings are April 6 at Fort Stewart and April 20 at Hunter. The ROTC representatives from Georgia Southern give the presentation at Ft. Stewart and the Armstrong Atlantic State University ROTC Department conducts the briefings at Hunter each m onth.

Soldier scholarship available

The annual opportunity for the \$1,000 Henry "Hank" White Scholarship is offered to active-duty military stationed at Fort Stewart or Hunter, with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher. Complete information about the criteria and selection process is listed on the application. The award will be partly based on the applicant's response to the essay question.

Applications can be picked up at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center and must be postmarked no later than April 25. Send completed packet to the Henry Hank White Scholarship, P.O. Box 97, Hinesville, Ga., 31310. For more information contact Derrick Taylor at 912-435-0319 or *derrick.taylor@us.army.mil.*

ThanksUSA Scholarship opens

The *ThanksUSA* Scholarship Program plans to award numerous scholarships again this year. All Family Members ages 24 and under, and all spouses of activeduty U.S. military service personnel, are eligible to apply. Applicants must plan to enroll full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, vocational school or technical school. They must also have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent on their relevant academic record. Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of financial need, academic record and demonstrated leadership and participation in school and community activities. Preference will be given to children or spouses of service personnel killed or injured during active duty.

The application period begins April 1 and must be mailed by May 15. To download the guidelines and application, go to *www.thanksusa.org/main/scholarships.html*. For more information, call 877-849-8727 or e-mail *shintz@scholarshipamerica.org* or visit *www.thanksusa.org/main/scholarships.html*.

Medical scholarships offered to wives

Operation Homefront and the Saban Family Foundation are awarding 22 scholarships totaling up to \$237,500. They are offered to wives of uniformed servicemembers to attend various vocational training programs in the medical field. The awards will be based on the applicant's response to the essay question and her commitment to volunteerism.

Applications must be postmarked no later than May 1. Detailed information on eligibility and application requirements can be found at *www.operationhome-front.net/highlights.aspx?id*=9431.

Register now for college graduation

The Fort Stewart's and Hunter Army Airfield's "All College Commencement," is slated for June 24, at the Main Post Chapel, Fort Stewart, 7 p.m. The ceremony

is open to all military, Family Members, retirees, and civilian/contract employees who will be within nine semester hours of completing their degree requirements or have earned a college degree, post-secondary certificate or diploma anytime after Aug. 2009.

Students attending "on-post" schools should contact their college right away. For those enrolled in off-post schools, (even for graduates not planning on attending the ceremony) please complete the electronic registration form at www.stewart.army.mil/services/education/gradForm/gradform.asp. Forms are also available at the education centers. Early registration is required not only to contact the participants, but to recognize all our graduates in the graduation brochure. For more information, contact Sheraill Fresher at 912-767-8331 or e-mail Sheraill.d.fresher@conus.army.mil.

Education appointments available

Customers unable to visit the Army Education Center during the duty hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. will be afforded the opportunity, to schedule a counseling appointment up until 5:45 p.m. The request can be made by e-mailing the Education Center at *stewcounselor@conus.mil*.

New withdrawal procedures announced

The process for requesting a Withdrawal for Military Reasons Request in *GoArmyEd* for Tuition Assistance funded classes has changed. Soldiers are now required to upload into their GoArmyEd the "Request for TA recoupment waiver form" signed by their battalion commander.

You should first speak to your teacher. If, after you have verified with the instructor that you cannot complete the class, even with an extension, and you feel you must withdraw, inform the teacher and the school. Then go into *GoArmyEd* under the "Enroll or Drop/Withdraw from a Course" tab under my Virtual Education Center while the course is still in session and follow the procedures.

If you have further questions about the withdrawal process, please contact the GoArmyEd Helpdesk at 800-817-9990. Deployed Soldiers should call 800-861-7770 or create a Helpdesk case online at *www. GoArmyEd.com.*

Check out the eBenefits Portal

The Veterans Administration has a new Web site called eBenefits where a Soldier can view the status of all his/her VA Benefits (pension claims, GI Bill, home loan certification, etc). This portal is a one-stop shop for benefits-related online tools and information for wounded warriors, veterans, servicemembers, Family of servicemembers, and those who care for them. It's a personalized workspace giving quick access to online tools integrated into *eBenefits* - tools that let you apply for benefits, download your DD 214, see your benefits status online, learn about state benefits and much more. You must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System to create an account. Active duty can use their CAC Card to gain access. Others must go to a VA location to get a log-on ID. Click on www.ebenefits.va.gov for more information.

MyCAA available for spouses

The Department of Defense has resumed the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts program for qualifying spouses only. The program now assists spouses of active-duty servicemembers in the pay grades of private to sergeant, warrant officers 1 to 2, first lieutenant, and second lieutenant to achieve portable careers. The approved education programs are only associate's degrees, licensure, and certifications. Funding assistance will be up to \$4,000 with an annual cap of \$2,000 per fiscal year. To open an account and to see the full details of the new program, go to the secure Web site https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa. Please allow for 14 days for approval of all financial assistance documents. If information is needed on other sources of financial assistance please contact a Military OneSource consultant at 800-342-9647.

Hope Grant for college credit offered

The Georgia HOPE grant is available to Georgia residents, active-duty military assigned to a military installation in Georgia and their Family Members. Many HOPE eligible diploma and certificate programs are offered by technical colleges throughout Georgia, including Savannah Technical College, Airport Rd. in Hinesville. Some classes are even available on-line or in the Fort Stewart Education Center.

Of special interest to those who cannot use My CAA, Savannah Technical College has the Technical Communications Specialist program, which is a great option to fulfill the General Education Requirement courses for your degree. Under this particular certificate program, the Hope Grant will cover the cost of classes that can later be transferred to most other colleges and universities.

For more information, click on *www.gsfc.org* and *www.savannahtech.edu* or call Savannah Tech Education Center, 912-408-2430; Hinesville, 912-408-3024; Savannah, 912-443-5700. For additional on-line classes, explore the Georgia Virtual Technical College Web site at *www.gvtc.org*.

CLEP now at Stewart-Hunter

The College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests are now available at both education center sites. The exams are free for military personnel however; there is now a charge to re-test on a previously administered exam. CLEP tests are \$92 and DSSTs are \$100. The Hunter Test Center requires pre-registration www.ccis.edu/nationwide/main.asp?Hunter. Contact the Columbia College test administrator by calling 912-352-8635 at Hunter or 912-767-7588 at Fort Stewart

Online academic skills course offered

The Peterson's Online Academic Skills Course is now available to all the services, DoD civilians, and Family Members. The OASC is designed for individuals who want to build their math and verbal skills to excel in their jobs, pass their exams, advance their careers, or continue their education. The course will diagnose the individual's current level of reading comprehension, vocabulary, and math abilities and teach the concepts and skills needed to increase proficiency in each of these academic areas. This course is available free of charge and can be accessed on any computer at any time. To register, click on www.petersons.com/dantes. The same site also provides free study resources for GED, SAT, CLEP, ASVAB, etc.

Money available for education

The Army continues to fund the cost of college Tuition Assistance for active-duty Soldiers and Army Reservists through the *GoArmyEd* Web site. Choose from on-line and classroom courses from thousands of colleges. The Army still provides each Soldier \$250 per semester hour up to \$4,500 per fiscal year. New students should login to *www.GoArmyEd.com* for details and to start your *GoArmyEd* account. Then meet with an Army education counselor to discuss college programs and activate your account. E-mail counselor support is also available by contacting *stewcounselor@conus.army.mil*.

Source available for Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, Chapter 33, is a non-contributory benefit (no up-front payment required by Soldiers) for those who served on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001. The Veterans Administration Web site at <code>www.gibill.va.gov</code> provides in-depth eligibility information for all VA chapters and a link to the on-line application. It also includes all information and steps concerning the transferability to Family Members. Also check out the new Web site at <code>www.ebenefits.va.gov</code> where you can view the status of your VA benefits and much more. If you have questions after exploring the Web site, call 888-442-4551.

3rd ID hosts CBRN conference for Soldiers

Sgt. Robert Schaffner Jr. 3rd ID Public Affairs

Governments topple, civil wars erupt and disasters happen. We've seen examples in recent weeks, with the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and the Pacific, and the recent protests and revolts against long-standing governments in Egypt and Libya.

To ensure the Army's readiness for a potentially catastrophic event, 3rd Infantry Division hosted its first Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear conference at Club Stewart, March 24, to educate and prepare CBRN Soldiers on Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield and Kelley Hill at Fort Benning.

The importance of CBRN is understood Armywide.

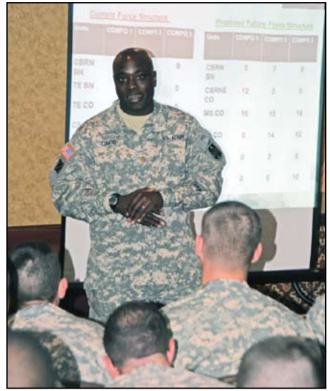
"The world has changed and we're changing with it," said Maj. Dexter Davis, the chief of the Sense Team, Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch, Requirements Determination Division, Capabilities Development Integration Directorate, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and guest speaker for the event. "Of the 27,000 troops cut Army-wide, CBRN has had zero. [The Army is] restructuring for the fighters of the future. [CBRN] will soon become the force that all brigade and company commanders will want to have in the next fight."

Preparing CBRN Soldiers in case of threat or event starts at the school.

"The threat is real, although many appear not imminent, and we are not all privy to information," said Sgt. Maj. Joe Bonds, Directorate of Training and Leader Development, at U.S. Army CBRN School, Fort Leonard Wood. "We must be prepared when the call comes."

Educational development was discussed by Lisa Merrill, branch chief, Individual Training Development at U.S. Army CBRN School, Fort Leonard Wood. Merrill touched on the new focus of how to engage students

from Advanced Individual Training to the new CBRN's Senior Staff Planners Course, which is provided to senior CBRN officers and NCOs from all military



Sgt. Robert Schaffner Jr.

Major Dexter Davis, chief of the Sense Team, Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch, Requirements Determination Division, Capabilities Development Integration Directorate, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., talks with the Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Soldier from Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield, and Fort Benning at the 3rd ID CBRN conference held at Club Stewart, March 24. The conference is designed is educate CBRN Soldiers.

branches for continuing professional education with focus on providing CBRN organization capabilities while offering most the current information for real time threats.

"Learners are different today than they were 10 years ago," Merrill said. "The courses are more of a facilitator format and less professor. The courses have become more self-structured, with Soldier-created content. The question at the end of the day is, who has worked harder, the Soldier or the instructor? If the answer is the instructor, then the Soldier didn't get it.

"Governance for instruction has become more adaptive and flexible."

The importance of CBRN is not lost at the local level

"The CBRN conference gives all Dog Face Dragon Soldiers the opportunity to bond, share information and the opportunity to learn and understand where the future of CBRN is headed," said Maj. Gary Belcher, 3rd ID, CBRNE officer in-charge. "There is a new push to align and integrate the CBRN branch at a divisional level."

A conference room filled to capacity with CBRN veterans and senior NCOs and officers speaking in jargon not familiar to all didn't stop the enthusiasm of learning for one novice CBRN Soldier.

"It's still all very confusing to me," said Pvt. Nicole Lincicome, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-3 Brigade Troops Battalion, who is a recent chemical operation specialist AIT graduate. "It's exciting to see how everyone thinks, all the changes happening and new equipment coming out that I have never heard of. It's all very confusing, but I'll get it."

Regardless of the level of experience of those in attendance, a mutual understanding of the critical and rare opportunity to be in a room of their peers, exchanging information and ideas, was shared.

FAREWELL

Although his new position was just officially announced this past week by the Department of the Army, word spread like wildfire. Command Sergeant Major Stidley has been selected as the new U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center command sergeant major.

"Look at this one," he says as he begins to read the e-mail out loud. "That email was from a Soldier who served with me when I was the battalion command sergeant major over at 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation, 3rd CAB. This is the kind of stuff you remember ... all the people you touched. I'm truly going to miss being with the Soldiers."

For nearly 32 years, Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Stidley has committed his heart and soul to the U.S. Army and 11 of those years have been right here at the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade at Hunter Army Airfield. Having served on more than seven combat tours, five of those with the 3rd Infantry Division's aviation brigade, Command Sgt. Maj. Stidley can attest to the fact that combat and safety are nothing new to him as he looks forward to his next assignment.

"Our most recent deployment

__from Page 1A

speaks for itself," boasts Command Sgt. Maj. Stidley. "We deployed to the hardest place in Afghanistan with more than 5,000 servicemembers and we returned with no fatalities. That says something loud and clear ... safety. Safety is serious business but very basic stuff. Leaders must enforce the standards and Soldiers must take the responsibility for their own actions."

From garrison-paved airfields to war-torn countries, Command Sgt. Maj. Stidley proved he's a Soldier's Soldier – his reputation flourished from his arrival to the brigade in 1998 as a newly-promoted master sergeant to his eventual rise to the most senior enlisted noncommissioned officer in the brigade today. While some may also consider him the epitome of cool, he said it's the 3rd CAB Soldiers' passion to lead and their intensity to learn that has gotten him this far.

"The hardest part is yet to come – saying goodbye to my Soldiers, the Family Members and the community of Savannah. How do you sum up 11 years in a six-minute farewell speech? My family and I have such great memories here. My fondest ones are simply being with the Joes. We are truly going to miss everyone."



Spc. Jared Eastman, 1HBCT

Passing the colors, continuing the mission

Third Brigade Special Troops Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Sheryl Lyon hands the battalion's flag to Lt. Col. Richard Hansen as he prepares to give command to Lt. Col. Jason Garkey during a ceremony, March 15.



Stewart honors American Red Cross volunteers



Spc. Michael Adams

Brigadier General Jeffrey Phillips, deputy commanding general, 3rd Infantry Division, speaks at the 2011 American Red Cross Volunteer Awards and Recognition Ceremony, at the Main Post Chapel, March 22.

Spc. Michael Adams
3rd ID Public Affairs

The American Red Cross sponsored the 2011 Volunteer Awards and Recognition Ceremony, March 22, at the Main Post Chapel on Fort Stewart.

The ceremony recognized volunteers in the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield community for their commitment to the Soldiers in a time of need.

Brigadier General Jeffrey Phillips, deputy commanding general, 3rd Infantry Division, spoke at the event, thanking the volunteers for their hard work and service to America.

He said he realized how vital the Red Cross is from his mother, who volunteered with the organization. "The American Red Cross, in its 130 years of existence, is probably the premiere volunteer organization in the area of health care services," said Brig. Gen. Phillips. "I think the Red Cross serves as a model for other organizations."

He was joined by Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Ashmen, 3rd ID command sergeant major, Col. Kevin Milton, Stewart-Hunter garrison commander and Command Sergeant Major James Ervin, Stewart-Hunter garrison command sergeant major, to honor those in the local area who contributed their time to make sure the Red Cross messages got out.

One of the awardees was Brigitte Shanken, who was recognized for 33 years of service to the Red Cross.

Shanken said she volunteers because it feels wonderful and there have been numerous times over the years when she has seen people's faces who she has helped.

"It's something I can do with my eyes closed," she said. "This is my country, this is my town, this is my community. If I'm not willing to make a difference, who else is going to do it?"

Shanken added that she works at numerous other places in the community by volunteering. She also serves as the volunteer director for Winn Army Community Hospital.

The Red Cross for the area serviced more than 4,000 messages to Soldiers and their Family Members. Out of those messages, more than four out of five were to Soldiers not in Fort Stewart or Hunter Army Airfield area.

President Barack Obama recently proclaimed March as Red Cross month to persuade people to get out in the community and make a difference.

3rd CAB Soldiers welcome new battalion CSM

Sgt. Monica K. Smith 3rd CAB Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, bid farewell to their command sergeant major and welcomed a new one during a change of responsibility ceremony on the flightline at Hunter Army Airfield, March 25. Outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Blair passed the responsibility of the battalion to incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Brian

Tauke.

"I loved being in this battalion," said Command Sgt. Maj. Blair. "I've been here a while. I was here as a first sergeant and then as a command sergeant major. But when the Army says it's time to go, you have to move out of the way and let someone else come in. This is a great battalion and Command Sgt. Maj. Hauke is going to do well. He's the guy for this battalion and he will lead this battalion to do great things for the brigade."

During the ceremony a noncommissioned officer

sword was passed from the outgoing command sergeant major, to the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Michael Higginbotham, and then to the incoming command sergeant major to signify how the responsibility is passed from one individual to the next.

"It's an honor to be given this opportunity," said Command Sgt. Maj. Hauke. "I wish (Command Sgt. Maj. Blair) the best of luck in his next assignment. He has led this battalion well and I hope to continue the great work he has started."



Photos by Sgt. Monica K. Smith

LEFT: Command sergeant major for 2/3 Avn. Regt., 3rd CAB, Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Hauke, salutes the battalion commander for the first time after taking responsibility of the battalion at Hunter Army Airfield, March 25.

RIGHT: Lieutenant Colonel Michael Higginbotham (center left), passes the noncommissioned officer sword to the incoming senior noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Hauke, during a change of responsibility ceremony at Hunter Army Airfield, March 25.



Leaders share lessons learned, affirm partnership

Pat Young

Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Sharing lessons learned developed from complex issues was the focal point of a two-day leadership conference hosted by the University of Georgia's Fanning Institute, March 25-26, in Liberty County.

The event was part of Leadership Southeast Georgia, a state-sponsored, tiered education platform to educate and advocate the positive growth of community leaders. The Fanning Institute supports the educational and public service mission by reviewing lessons learned from complex issues. Among the topics of discussion was the Department of Defense's 2009 decision to not bring a 5th Brigade Combat Team to Fort Stewart.

Approximately 25 leaders, representing 10 local communities in Southeast Georgia's Coastal Regional Commission, participated in the activity, which included three discussion panel members: Hinesville Mayor Jim Thomas; Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Deputy Garrison Commander Michael Biering, and Coastal Courier Managing Editor Hollie Barnidge.

The event started with a brief introduction of each panel member and their overview of the affects gen-

erated by the 5th BCT not coming to Fort Stewart.

The 5th BCT discussion circulated around the 2007 announcement of the Secretary of Defense to grow the Army from around 1,035,000 to 1,110,000 active and reserve forces. That announcement came with predictions of significant growth for areas like Fort Stewart, Fort Carson, and Fort Bliss. Those predictions fell through in June 2009, when the Army announced the Army would only grow 45 new brigades, not 48 – and the additional forces would be used to fill needed positions in existing brigades, rather than creating three additional brigades. News articles and LSG participants noted the affects of not having the 5th BCT come to Fort Stewart contributed to significant challenges to private developers, local communities, and posed planning challenges for the entire Stewart-Hunter community.

Hinesville's Mayor Thomas said one of the lessons learned that young leaders could take away from the conference was the importance of community collaboration. He said the decision to not bring the 5th BCT to the area was indeed costly; but the community's response helped mitigate that damage with cooperation at multiple levels including state and federal leaders, churches, civic organizations and concerned citizens.

"When complex issues arise, you must find a way to adapt and overcome," Mayor Thomas said.

The Coastal Courier's Managing Editor, Hollie Bairnidge was the second speaker, and noted that the decision was particularly costly to private developers, and perhaps LSG participants could take away the importance of 'due diligence' – adding that taking time and responding slower could avoid future troubles.

Stewart-Hunter Deputy Garrison Commander Michael Biering echoed Hinesville mayor's opinion regarding community partnership and cooperation. He said he was thankful that Fort Stewart has a strong supportive partnership with its neighbors, which helped the installation become the Southern Living Station of Choice, and helped earn the Army Community of Excellence Award an unprecedented four times.

He said that relationship was important. He noted one of the reasons was because most of Stewart-Hunter Soldiers and Family Members lived in surrounding communities. He also noted that community support help maintain the installation's ability to train and remain a strategic and viable asset, well into the future. He noted that although the 5th BCT did not come here, the new construction was needed and helped meet existing needs.

Hunter Chapel sponsors prayer breakfast

Nancy Gould

Hunter Public Affairs

Soldiers of various ranks, from various units and denominations attended Hunter Chapel's annual prayer breakfast at the Ranger Dining Facility, Mar. 22.

They listened intently as guest speaker, retired Col. Eric Robyn, former operations chief for the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, delivered a message of encouragement and truth, taken from *John 8:31-32*, a new testament book in the Bible. Col. Robyn told the seasoned warriors that God uses them in their profession as Soldiers to reveal and carry out His truth, along with other people from all walks of life.

"Soldiering is a noble call held in high regard by God," he said, adding that the Bible reinforces the need for governmental authority throughout the Bible and extols the virtues that Soldiers live daily. "Soldiers are peacemakers but they must carry the sword at times."

He acknowledged their sacrifices as Soldiers, which includes living in dangerous, deadly environments and long months of loneliness and separation from their Families

Chaplain (Capt.) Patrick Van Durme, Third Squadron, 17th U.S. Cavalry, is a Roman Catholic priest who attend-

ed the breakfast. He said that Soldiers and their Families needed the kind of encouragement offered at the breakfast. He's seen that same appetite for information, guidance and encouragement from those who attend his weekly Catholic Bible study. The night before the breakfast, his study didn't break until 10:30 p.m., long after it was scheduled to end.

Chaplain Van Durme is a seasoned Soldier who few on approximately 200 flights around Iraq to minister to Catholics and civilian leaders. He said it is truly rewarding to help Soldiers with the spiritual dimension of their lives. "They need encouragement, fellowship, and something to get them from today to tomorrow."

He said young aviators at Hunter had experience serious warfare in their military mission in Afghanistan. "These kids fought in "old school battles, like the ones in World War II," he said. "They engaged people daily who were trying to kill them."

The chaplain's overarching message to all Soldiers is that God loves them completely—he also loves the mission they perform. He tells them that God doesn't expect perfection, only that they do their best.

The prayer breakfast host, Chap. (Lt. Col.) John Molina, Hunter Army Airfield garrison chaplain, offered a closing prayer at the breakfast. He thanked God for the men and women who serve this nation and he asked that God help all Soldiers learn to trust in his providence in both good and bad times.

Call the Hunter Chapel, 912-315-5111, for information about Bible studies and other programs. The following list includes all chaplains who are available at Hunter to council Soldiers and their Family members:

Lt. Col. John Molina, Garrison Chaplain, 912-315-5111

Capt. C. Sutherland, Asst. Garrison Chaplain, 912-315-6174

Capt. John Tillman, 224 MI Bn., 912-315-6777

Maj. Grace Hollis-Taylor, AVN Bde., 912-315-3192

Capt. David Arthur, 1/3 AVN Bn., 912-315-2153

Capt. Chris Campbell, 2/3 AVN Bn., 912-315-5461

Capt. Anthnoy Keim, 260th QM Bn., 912-315-7870

Capt. Pat Van Durme, 3/17 CAV, 912-315-3153

Capt. Abe Sarmiento, 4/3 AVN, 912-315-3087

Maj. Edward Jackson, CID, 912-315-6177

Capt. John Smith, 160th SOAR, 912-315-6860

Capt. John Monahan, 603rd ASB, 912-315-5960

Capt. Bryan Koyn, 1/75th Ranger, 912-315-6360

taken care of" back home.

RETREAT.

Prior to this assignment, Col. Hughes served as the executive officer to the Secretary of the Army and the Army's chief of liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Major General Cucolo described Col. Hughes as "the perfect mix of talent and skill."

The actions of Col. Hughes in Najaf, Iraq, at the start of the war exemplified those traits.

An angry mob - fueled by lies - surrounded a group of U.S. Soldiers. Though the Soldiers were outnumbered, they possessed lethal fire power they could not use on unarmed civilians. Then a battalion commander, Col. Hughes ordered his Soldiers to lower the barrels of their weapons, take a knee and smile. This gesture diffused the situation and the crowd eventually dispersed. Local Islamic leaders praised the actions of those Soldiers.

"This story serves as an incredible example of how we can adapt and behave correctly, no matter what the conditions," said Maj. Gen. Cucolo.

Colonel Hughes said he looked forward to supporting the Soldiers, Family Members and civilians serving the Marne Division.

"Last November the Secretary of the Army looked me dead in the eye and asked me what division I wanted to go to," said Col. Hughes. "I told him I wanted to be a Dog Face Soldier."

While Col. James is new to his position, he is not new to 3rd ID. Colonel James served in Desert Storm as a Marne Soldier, and saw combat in Iraq as a battalion commander, division G-3, brigade commander and, most recently, as division chief of staff.

"There is no better place to serve in our Army," Col. James said.

Colonel James thanked Maj. Gen. Phillips for his support to the Families.

"As a chief of staff forward-deployed," said Col. James,

"I had a unique perspective in being able to see what you did for this division and for the Families." He added that the division was able to focus on their mission in Northern Iraq, because they knew the Families "were

from Page 1A

Major General Phillips considered his 18-month tenure in the Marne Division the opportunity of a lifetime. Those in attendance were more than just guests; to him, they were great friends and some of the finest Soldiers in the U.S. Army. Major General Phillips praised community supporters and Army Civilians for their support to the division. "Where would we be without our Army Civilians - many of whom served in uniform themselves?" he said.

The general also praised the "magnificent oak" known as the Army Family.

"Their strength is there for you to see," he said, "drawn from within and among."

SPICE-

There is a high quantity of other synthetic chemicals found as well, indicating that a user really has no way of knowing what they are being exposed to. Worse yet, Spice appears to have many negative side effects that marijuana does not, such as anxiety attacks, hallucinations, nausea, and a chemical dependency. Three teenagers in Roswell, Ga., were recently hospitalized after using Spice. One teen had a severe reaction to the drug, resulting in swelling of the brain. Poison Centers nationwide have reported 352 cases in 35 states since the initial report, he said. Patients often have a rapid heart rate, dangerously high blood pressure and sometimes hallucinations or paranoia. Fifteen states have banned the drug. It's often sold under the guise of incense, and the packaging warns buyers that it is not for human consumption.

The DEA sent out a notice to alert the public and storeowners of the ban. Stores had until Dec. 24, 2010, to clear their shelves, and anyone found in possession of Spice after the deadline will face punishment similar to that of those found in possession of cocaine.

The Army's views on Spice

On Feb. 10, 2011 a memorandum from the Secretary of the Army was distributed, clearly prohibiting Spice and any variations from being used by the active army, the National Guard of the United States when in Title 10 status, and the U.S. Army Reserve. It also states that any violation of the policy may result in punitive actions against service-

Synthetic cannabis and other THC substitutes have no known application other than mimicking the effects of THC in the human body. Synthetic cannabis and THC substitutes are so closely related in action to THC as to make it obvious that synthetic cannabis and THC substitutes will have the same potential for abuse as THC. It is, therefore, reasonable to assume that synthetic cannabis and THC substitutes have substantial capabilities of creating hazards to the mission of the Army, the health of the user and to the safety of the Army community.

Soldiers are prohibited from, using, possessing, manufacturing, selling, distributing, importing into or exporting from the United States, or introducing into any installation, vessel, vehicle, or aircraft use by or under the control of the Army.

On March 1, the Drug Enforcement Administration, temporarily placed 5 Synthetic Cannabinoids into the Schedule 1, thus making it illegal in the United



pepper! Spice, in any form, is illegal for use by any Soldier on active duty, National Guard, or Army Reserve status. Don't risk your career for this drug.

from Page 1A





from Page 1A

"Upon hearing of the fire and seeing same evening and ignited land on the the smoke, myself and my Fire other side of the road.

The cause of the blaze is still unknown. but the GFC will conduct a full investigation.

"However, the Georgia Forestry Commission's "hot shot" team still is putting out hot spots and any areas they see smoldering," Ballance said.

Firefighters also created 40-50-foot firebreaks to contain possible flare-

Firefighters have found assistance in the form of rain showers that doused the scorched land and lingering flames.

"The rain has been a big help in extinguishing the fire," said Darrell Ballance, Ludowici/Long County Fire Department Chief and Emergency Management Agency Director..

Outages caused by burned power lines were reported throughout the area, he said, but service has been restored, and all evacuees have been allowed to return to their homes. The only reported injury was to a firefighter who broke his foot. Thirty fire departments responded to the fire and, at times, up to 270 firefighters were on hand.

Ballance said winds made the blaze especially difficult to control.

"It was a tough fire to fight due to the high winds, which, at times, caused the fire to reach treetops and jump highways," he said.

Two helicopters were brought in Friday to drop water on the flames, according to L/LCFD Assistant Chief Richard Truman.

Stewart-Hunter has also assisted in other national fire disturbances. In recent years, they deployed to aid in 2007 to help suppress fires at the Okefenokee Complex and in 1998 with the Florida Palm Coast fires.

"We have sent individuals to be part of hand line crews on wildfires, and overhead teams, Space Shuttle disaster recovery efforts, hurricane recovery, etc. several times between those years to places such as Idaho, Alaska, North Carolina, Florida, Oregon, Virginia, Mississippi and Texas," said Mangun.

Ballance said the fire was the worst he'd seen since 2007 when 2,000 acres in Long County burned. He also emphasized the importance of taking safety precautions in times of crisis.

Residents are reminded residents to leave the area or stay indoors when a fire breaks out or burns into the evening hours because smoke and darkness make it hard for fire engine drivers to see bystanders lining the sides of the roads and lingering on the outskirts of the fire.

Mangun agrees with Balance in encouraging residents to think twice before lighting controlled burns.

"Before you do any burning, even a little pile, call Georgia forestry at 877-652-2876," Ballance said.

Coastal Courier correspondent Lewis Levine contributed to this report.

FIRE

chief of the Forestry Branch for Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield. "They responded with 'Send anything you can spare!', " continued Mangun.

Management Supervisor made contact

with Georgia Forestry Commission

wildland fire staff and, knowing the

weather and drought conditions for the

day, offered our assistance," said Jeff

Mangun, Directorate of Public Works

Since the fire is all but extinguished and no dwellings are in danger, the command center at the Long County Recreation Department from which firefighters and first responders had been operating has been closed.

The fire began in a wooded area near Elim Church Road and quickly sread to the thickly forested lad off Highway 84, which public safety officials temporarily closed a few times due to zero visibil-

The fire jumped Highway 84 on the